Highway grid would depend on the availability of resources in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

Sino-Indian border dispute

*127. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any fresh talks are proposed to be held with China to resolve the Sino-Indian border dispute; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) and (b) The boundary question is a subject of continuing discussion between the Governments of India and China. The India -China Joint Working Group on the boundary question has been established to address this question. Government's efforts are directed at reaching a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable settlement of the boundary question with China, consistent with our national interests.

Private entrepreneurs to construct Highways

*128. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: SHRI ANAND SHARMA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether private entrepreneurs are proposed to be allowed by Govt. to construct highways in the country;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what are the reasons for allowing the private sector to undertake such construction work?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b) Government had in July, 1985 by a public notice invited proposals from private sector for undertaking the construction of national highways at their cost but no satisfactory response was received. Government are prepared to consider such proposals.

(c) It is to increase the investment in national highways by supplementing the budgetary resources.

U.S. protest against India's action in Srinagar

*129. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a press report in "The Hindustan Times" dated, 4th March, 1990, captioned U.S. flays action in Srinagar which quoted State Department Spokeswoman, Margaret Tutwiler, deploring the violence in Srinagar and urging New Delhi to immediately stop its security forces from shooting unarmed civilians; and

(b) if so, whether Government have made any protest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government has conveyed to the US Ambassador in New Delhi its concern at the inaccurate statement made by the State Department spokeswoman.

Intelligence branch of Kashmir in Delhi

*130. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an intelligence branch of the Kashmir